

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /167 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4539

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2268

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, PU

SUBJ: SECURITY COUNCIL : UN MEMBERSHIP FOR GUINEA-BISSAU

1. AT RECEPTION JUNE 25 MAURITANIAN PERMREP AND CURRENT SC PRES EL HASSEN, SUPPORTED BY ALGERIAN PERMREP RAHAL, APPROACHED AMB SCHAUFLE WITH QUERY ON US POSITION REGARDING UN MEMBERSHIP FOR GUINEA-BISSAU. EL HASSEN SAID MATTER WILL PROBABLY NOT BE RAISED DURING HIS PRESIDENCY BUT AFTER PERU TAKES CHAIR IN JULY.

2. SCHAUFLE SAID IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT US WOULD SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP FOR ENTITY WHICH IT DID NOT RECOGNIZE AS A STATE, NOT FOR POLITICAL REASONS BUT BECAUSE GUINEA-BISSAU DID NOT, IN OUR VIEW, MEET GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED CRITERIA UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. NATURALLY
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US SUPPORTED EXERCISE OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN GUINEA-

BISSAU AND SHOULD INDEPENDENCE BE ACHIEVED IN GOP-PAIGC NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH HE HOPED ONLY TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED. SCHAUFLE WAS SURE USG WOULD WELCOME SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.

3. WHEN EL HASSEN ASKED IF US WOULD OPPOSE MEMBERSHIP, SCHAUFLE REPLIED THAT QUESTION WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON. HE WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT BRINGING MATTER TO SC AT THIS TIME SEEMED CLEARLY PRECIPITATE AND IF AFRICANS USING THIS GAMBIT AS PRESSURE TACTIC HE DID NOT THINK IT EITHER CONSTRUCTIVE OR LIKELY TO SUCCEED IN SPEEDING PACE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. WHEN SCHAUFLE ASKED IF ANTICIPATED MOVE RESULTED FROM DECISION AT RECENT OAU SUMMIT, EL HASSEN REPLIED IN NEGATIVE. SCHAUFLE POINTED OUT THAT EVEN UNDER BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES SC VOTE NOW WOULD PROBABLY INCLUDE NUMBER OF ABSTENTIONS WHICH UNDERSIRABLE AND PERHAPS COULD BE AVOIDED IF AFRICANSE EXERCISED PATIENCE.

4. COMMENT: WE UNABLE ASSESS IF AFRICANS ARE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT PUSHING GUINEA-BISSAU MEMBERSHIP. APPROACH MAY BE TACTIC IN SEEKING EVERY OPPORTUNITY EXPEDITE SIGNIFICANT FORWARD MOVEMENT ON PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN GENERAL AND GUINEA-BISSAU IN PARTICULAR. IF AFRICANS PERSIST, PERU WILL HAVE WHAT MAY BE MESSY, THANKLESS TASK OF PERSIDING OVER CONSIDERATION THIS ITEM EVEN IF IT NEVER GETS TO FORMAL SC MEETING.

5. WE ASSUME, PERHAPS INCORRECTLY, THAT PUSHING MEMBERSHIP QUESTION PROBABLY WILL NOT RPT NOT STRENGTHEN POSITION OF THOSE PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS WHO PREPARED MOVE MORE RAPIDLY TOWARD AGREEMENT ON SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. ON THIS BASIS WE RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED INFORM EL HASSEN THAT USG BELIEVES CONSIDERATION THIS ITEM UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES PREMATURE AND POSSIBLY HARMFUL TO POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS AND WE STRONGLY URGE THAT MATTER BE HELD IN ABEYANCE. IT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE AVOID, AT THIS POINT, THREATENING US VETO OF GUINEA-BISSAU APPLICATION.

6. AT SAME TIME RE RECOMMEND THAT MATTER BE RAISED DISCREETLY WITH UK, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, COSTA RICA AND PERU BOTH HERE AND IN CAPITALS TO GET THEIR VIEWS AND TO URGE THEM TO ADVISE AFRICANS NOT TO PURSUE QUESTIONS TOO FAR TOO FAST.

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